GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3122
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
TELECAST OF MATCHES
SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has undersold its TV telecast rights of matches played under World Cup, 1999 beyond satisfactory reasons; and

(b) if so, the details of precautionary measures taken to ensure that the telecast rights are not undersold in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN)

(a) & (b): Central Bureau of Investigation in its Report on Cricket Match Fixing and Related Malpractices has made an observation that a study of guarantee money received by BCCI in some of the tournaments shows an interesting trend which indicates that it does not commensurate with India`s standing in the cricketing world. For World Cup, 1999 India received guarantee money of Rs. 1.5 Crores against Rs. 26 Crores received by the hosts for television rights over India for the series. CBI has concluded stating that these figures indicate that India has undersold itself due to reasons not satisfactorily explained by BCCI office bearers during their examination by CBI. CBI has also clarified in its report that this enquiry has not looked into the matter of grant of television rights since this issue is being dealt with separately. Subsequently, CBI informed that it has registered 5 cases against DD officials and others in connection with grant of TV rights. Three of them pertained to cricket including the World Cup, 1999.

BCCI has clarified that the sharing of earnings from the commercial rights to any World Cup event is arrived at in the ICC meetings amongst Host Country, full members, associate members and the ICC. For World Cup, 1999, an Agreement was signed between the ICC and the host ECB detailing the sharing formula. The sharing of earnings had been done accordingly.